

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6002

USDOC WASHDC

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, BEXP, GB

SUBJ: SANTA CLARA ORE PORT

USDOC FOR CONGER

ABIDJAN FOR REDSO

YAOUNDE FOR RDO

REF: STATE 269677 (NOTAL)

1. IN MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR DECEMBER 24, GOG PORT
DIRECTOR DAMAS STATED THAT GOG HAS RECEIVED SEVERAL OFFERS
IN ADDITION TO S.A./B.C.E.O.M. PROPOSAL. OF THESE, FOUR
(TWO FRENCH, ONE ITALIAN AND ONE JOINT ITALIAN-BRITISH)
WERE CONSIDERED WORTH FURTHER STUDY. DAMAS DID NOT IDENTIFY
FIRMS BUT IN REPLY TO QUESTION HE SAID PHILIP HOLZMAN HAD
NOT REPEAT NOT SUBMITTED PROPOSAL.

2. DAMAS SAID COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF REPS FROM VARIOUS
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MINISTRIES INVOLVED PLUS REPS OF USERS (SOMIFER AND

COMILOG) WOULD BE SET UP IN JANUARY AND EXAMINE VARIOUS OFFERS. DAMAS ANTICIPATED DECISION WOULD BE TAKEN BEFORE E D OF MONTH. WHEN ASKED IF IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR SOROS TO SEND SOMEONE HERE AGAIN OR SUBMIT ADDITIONAL INFO, DAMAS INDICATED HE DID NOT BELIEVE THIS USEFUL AT THIS STAGE.

3. DAMAS SAID DECISION WOULD BE TAKEN ON PROPOSAL FOR PORT DESIGN BEFORE ANY DECISION ON CONSTRUCTION OR EQUIPMENT SUPPLIERS. GOG HAS BUDGETED 500 MILLION CFA (DOLS 2.2 MILLION) FOR PORT STUDY, BUT WILL CHOOSE LOWEST BID CONSISTENT WITH QUALITY OF OFFER. DAMAS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SOROS BEST QUALIFIED IN WORLD FOR SUCH WORK, BUT ADDED IT ONLY NORMAL THAT GOG SHOULD WISH TO OBTAIN SEVERAL BIDS BEFORE MAKING DECISION.

4. DAMAS SAID THAT WORK ON MINERAL PORT WOULD PROCEED IN TIME FOR COMPLETION ALONG WITH BOOUE-FRANCEVILLE LEG OF RAILROAD SO THAT MINERAL PORT COULD BE USED FOR MANGANESE EVEN BEFORE IRON ORE.

5. DAMAS CONFIRMED THAT GOG WOULD FINANCE MARITIME SECTION OF PORT BUT WOULD EXPECT USERS (SOMIFER AND COMILOG) TO FINANCE LAND INSTALLATIONS.

6. COMMENT: ACTIVATION SANTA CLARA PROJECT APPARENTLY DOES NOT NECESSARILY INDICATE TENDER CALLS FOR BOOUE-BELINGA LEG OF RAILROAD IN NEAR OFFING. SOROS ASSOCIATES APPEARS TO HAVE REASONABLY GOOD CHANCE OF GETTING CONTRACT ALTHOUGH DIFFICULT TO ASSESS WHAT DAMAS MAY HAVE LEFT UNSAID. REGRETTABLE THAT SOROS DID NOT BOTHER TO CONTACT EMBASSY WHEN HERE AS I COULD HAVE RAISED MATTER WITH PRESIDENT BONGO AND PERHAPS HELPED CLINCH DEAL OR AT LEAST BEEN IN BETTER POSITION TO TELL WHERE PROPOSAL STANDS.

7. AS IT VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO EXPECT ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING OVER CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS, I WILL SEEK TO SEE PRESIDENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER MY RETURN FROM MED-EVAC WIESBADEN IN EARLY JANUARY AND TRY TO PRESS SOROS CASE FURTHER.

MCKESSON

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